

TOBACCO LAW- THE HISTORY

House Bill 381 was passed by the Missouri General Assembly and became law on August 28, 2001. This law gave the enforcement responsibilities to the Division of Liquor Control. In August of 2003, the Division name was changed to the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco, to reflect the enforcement of both age-restricted products.

FYI

Link – <http://www.dmh.missouri.gov/ada/facts/factsheets.htm>

ADA FACTS: Smokeless Spit Tobacco Smoking and Adolescents

Before it was commonly smoked, tobacco was chewed. Until WWI, it was the preferred way of using tobacco. Smokeless tobacco has experienced resurgence in popularity in recent years, especially among teenage boys.

Everyday, an estimated 3,000 teenagers begin smoking. According to the Surgeon General, in the lifetimes of those 3, 000 teens, 60 will die in traffic accidents, 30 will be murdered, and 750 will die from smoking-related diseases.

Nearly 85 percent of all smokers say they started smoking before the age of 18. It is estimated that 3.1 million adolescents smoke. It is most common among high-school seniors, of whom, one in four admits to smoking-even though in most states, Missouri included, it is illegal to sell tobacco products to minors.

Link – <http://www.dmh.missouri.gov/ada/facts/factsheets.htm>

REPORTS:

The Missouri Institute of Mental Health (MIMH) in February of 2002 conducted the Missouri 2002 Student Survey for the State of Missouri's Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (DADA), and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The survey was administered to over 12,000 Missouri students enrolled in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 in Missouri public schools.

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http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/SmokingAndTobacco/Youth_Use.pdf

New Tobacco Study Finds Missouri Youth Playing With Fire Some Missouri school children feel they "need a cigarette every day."

Missouri kids believe that tobacco is as addictive as cocaine or heroin, yet most have gone ahead and tried it anyway, according to a groundbreaking study recently conducted by the Missouri

Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). The study also found that a high percentage of Missouri kids who use tobacco reported being part of a culture of tobacco use.

"We should not shrug off these findings with a usual kids-will-be-kids reaction," said Janet Wilson, chief of the DHSS Health Promotion Unit. "This is a youthful indiscretion that many of our children will not outgrow."

Wilson said this study was undertaken because similar studies of adults have found that 80 percent of adult regular smokers actually begin the habit before the age of 18. This new study, called the Missouri 2003 Youth Tobacco Survey, used self-reported data obtained from approximately 3,000 randomly selected Missouri middle and high school students. This is the first study to document the influences and beliefs about tobacco and tobacco use among Missouri youth.

Researchers found that almost all Missouri middle and high school students believe a person can get addicted to tobacco the same as with cocaine or heroin, yet almost half (44%) of Missouri middle school students and more than half (66%) of Missouri high school students have used some form of tobacco.

The study also found that the overwhelming percentage of students who consider themselves to be current smokers have much more exposure to smoking than do students who have never smoked. Among current smokers in middle school, 90% reported that one or more of their closest friends also smoked. Only 17% of nonsmoking middle school children reported having a close friend who was a smoker. The percentage (85%) of middle school current smokers who reported having recently ridden in a car with someone who was smoking was more than twice the percentage (40%) of nonsmoking students who had that experience. These types of comparisons were similar for high school students: for instance, almost all (86%) high school current smokers reported having ridden in a car with someone who was smoking in the past week, compared with less than a third (32%) of high school nonsmokers who had done that.

Another striking disparity between school-age smokers and nonsmokers is found in their embrace of tobacco company advertising. Among middle school nonsmokers, barely 15 percent said they would sport a tobacco company logo, whereas almost two-thirds (62%) of the middle school smokers would do so. The difference was almost identical for high school respondents: a mere 19 percent of nonsmokers, compared to 63 percent of smokers, said they would have no qualms about wearing or using anything with a tobacco company name or picture on it.

The study also documents evidence of how quickly the use of tobacco can become habit-forming. Among the current-smoker students, almost a third (32%) of middle and nearly half (45%) of high school kids reported feeling like they needed a cigarette every day. More than half of middle (52%) and almost two-thirds (61%) of high school students reported having tried to quit smoking at least once during the 12 months prior to the survey.

"These results may be shocking, but they are not really surprising," Wilson said. "We realize how impressionable young people are. As health professionals and community leaders, we need to encourage and adopt policies and curriculum that reflects this reality. And we can't afford," Wilson continued, "to ignore the reality that Missouri has some of the highest rates of smoking, which is the leading cause of death and disease and is totally preventable."

Additional findings from the study, "*Tobacco Use Among Missouri Youth*," can be found on the DHSS website at: http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/SmokingAndTobacco/Youth_Use.pdf or a printed copy can be obtained by calling the DHSS' Tobacco Use Prevention Program, toll-free at 1-866-726-9926.